



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CANBERRA

Reference No. 6.37

FOR RELEASE : NOON 27 JULY 1976

WAGE RATES INDEXES : MAY 1976 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In May 1976 the weighted average minimum weekly wage rate increased by \$3.54 (2.8 per cent) to \$129.08 for adult males and \$3.44 (3.0 per cent) to \$119.60 for adult females.
- These increases were the result of indexation rises in Federal awards and most State awards.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This statement contains figures of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females for May 1976 and corresponding figures for some earlier months. More information on these statistics will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates and Earnings* (Reference No. 6.16) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular

occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. Because the indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from salaries, those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for July 1974 and subsequent months are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

**TABLE 1. - WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)**

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of -	Adult males (b)					Adult females (c)				
	Weekly wage rates		Hourly wage rates			Weekly wage rates		Hourly wage rates		
	Wage rates \$	Annual change(d) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates \$	Annual change(d) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)
1975 -										
May	112.39	20.4	398.0	280.10	395.9	101.94	32.0	512.0	256.96	512.2
June	112.77	18.4	399.3	281.07	397.3	104.02	29.0	522.5	262.21	522.6
July	112.99	16.1	400.1	281.62	398.1	104.48	25.0	524.8	263.36	524.9
August	113.26	15.5	401.0	282.29	399.0	104.72	21.3	526.0	263.98	526.2
September	117.60	15.2	416.4	293.17	414.4	108.32	22.5	544.1	273.05	544.3
October	117.67	13.3	416.7	293.34	414.6	108.34	20.5	544.2	273.09	544.3
November	117.69	12.2	416.7	293.39	414.7	108.37	19.7	544.3	273.17	544.5
December	117.88	11.7	417.4	293.88	415.4	108.55	18.5	545.2	273.62	545.4
1976 -										
January	117.95	11.3	417.6	294.05	415.6	108.56	16.9	545.3	273.65	545.4
February	125.40	18.2	444.0	312.61	441.8	115.72	23.3	581.3	291.70	581.4
March	125.43	16.8	444.1	312.71	442.0	115.74	20.7	581.4	291.75	581.5
April	125.54	16.7	444.5	312.97	442.4	116.16	20.4	583.5	292.82	583.6
May	129.08	14.9	457.0	321.83	454.9	119.60	17.3	600.8	301.48	600.9

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes above. (b) Excludes rural industry. Hourly rates also exclude shipping and stevedoring. The former is not included in the wage rates index and for the latter definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates are not available. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction. (d) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (e) Base : Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 2. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MAY 1976 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
Mining and quarrying (d)	176.71	125.77	164.46	122.03	126.43	140.53	160.38	24.9	567.9
Manufacturing -									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	118.21	123.56	129.49	121.51	118.06	122.61	121.21	14.1	429.2
Textiles, clothing and footwear	118.47	119.35	120.34	118.21	121.56	115.02	119.01	16.1	421.4
Food, drink and tobacco	125.12	123.18	130.15	121.56	127.55	121.02	125.25	14.8	443.5
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	124.45	117.98	128.93	117.72	120.26	117.27	122.56	14.1	434.0
Paper, printing, etc.	126.29	133.18	142.02	130.85	128.65	126.65	130.48	14.1	462.0
Other manufacturing	123.54	124.22	125.19	123.10	121.26	118.51	123.61	14.5	437.7
All manufacturing groups	120.93	123.33	129.37	121.87	121.02	121.13	122.69	14.5	434.4
Building and construction (e)	141.32	142.17	131.59	138.27	131.28	129.83	138.14	13.6	489.1
Railway services	117.36	112.55	132.85	117.55	107.14	118.03	119.27	13.3	422.3
Road and air transport	132.27	124.41	124.28	123.64	124.96	127.28	127.72	13.8	452.2
Shipping and stevedoring (f)	160.00	160.58	153.33	151.63	161.22	157.25	157.93	13.3	559.2
Communication	154.84	155.64	154.46	153.68	155.33	150.90	154.81	13.1	548.2
Wholesale and retail trade	128.99	131.17	129.72	126.20	125.33	130.95	129.17	16.5	457.4
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	133.98	128.72	136.29	122.37	125.14	137.55	131.30	14.7	464.9
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	121.79	119.21	122.25	115.29	113.93	113.96	119.67	14.0	423.7
All industry groups (g)	129.73	128.02	133.24	126.49	125.12	128.32	129.08	14.9	457.0

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) For mining, wage rates used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (e) The weekly rates used in the index for occupations specified in the National Building Trades Construction Award include the weekly base rate of pay, the special allowance and the industry allowance. (f) Includes wage rates (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers. (g) Excludes rural industry.

TABLE 3. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MAY 1976 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
Manufacturing -									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	115.64	122.35	117.93	116.77	113.75	117.43	118.06	14.9	593.0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	112.33	110.68	112.23	113.63	114.10	105.01	111.52	20.2	560.2
Food, drink and tobacco	119.48	119.69	118.30	116.23	105.45	115.40	118.34	17.0	594.4
Other manufacturing	116.95	119.04	119.48	116.33	114.39	113.01	117.68	16.0	591.1
All manufacturing groups	114.97	114.95	115.74	115.72	112.16	110.79	114.91	17.8	577.2
Transport and communication	122.10	123.66	127.82	126.26	118.70	128.80	123.77	15.7	621.7
Wholesale and retail trade	126.91	131.00	125.45	126.65	121.96	120.77	127.23	18.4	639.1
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	127.04	124.31	124.05	117.50	111.45	124.29	124.02	14.4	623.0
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	117.56	115.60	116.18	111.68	106.52	110.28	115.45	16.3	579.9
All industry groups (d)	119.87	119.66	121.07	119.79	115.37	115.98	119.60	17.3	600.8

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.

TABLE 4. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a) (\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (b)									
1974 -									
July	97.71	98.13	98.87	94.93	92.36	96.84	97.98	96.62	97.34
August	98.10	98.81	100.37	96.05	92.68	97.33	98.57	97.35	98.02
September	102.18	102.46	105.68	100.23	95.92	101.10	104.02	99.99	102.09
October	104.04	104.04	107.70	101.68	98.53	102.69	104.73	103.02	103.90
November	105.42	104.73	107.94	102.53	99.68	104.75	105.32	104.42	104.89
December	105.86	105.15	108.95	103.32	101.02	106.02	105.64	105.42	105.53
1975 -									
January	106.02	105.43	109.27	103.61	101.41	106.32	105.93	105.62	105.77
February	106.46	105.58	109.71	103.67	101.49	106.38	106.01	106.23	106.06
March	108.18	106.79	110.26	105.81	101.55	107.51	108.75	105.72	107.38
April	108.31	107.01	110.51	105.89	101.84	107.61	108.90	105.94	107.56
May	113.00	112.14	115.70	110.34	106.11	112.47	113.63	110.89	112.39
June	113.28	112.73	115.83	111.01	106.35	112.59	113.79	111.53	112.77
July	113.39	113.09	116.13	111.06	106.76	112.76	114.02	111.74	112.99
August	113.34	113.11	116.21	111.06	110.63	112.76	114.02	112.33	113.26
September	118.58	117.05	121.09	114.93	111.32	116.77	119.06	115.84	117.60
October	118.63	117.10	121.09	115.06	111.64	116.77	119.06	116.00	117.67
November	118.65	117.10	121.11	115.06	111.65	117.05	119.08	116.01	117.69
December	118.66	117.15	121.47	115.12	113.30	117.06	119.14	116.36	117.88
1976 -									
January	118.65	117.15	121.58	115.11	113.97	117.48	119.15	116.49	117.95
February	126.08	124.48	129.32	122.61	121.47	124.73	126.58	123.97	125.40
March	126.08	124.48	129.53	122.65	121.53	124.73	126.63	123.99	125.43
April	126.20	124.50	129.62	122.99	121.62	124.75	126.64	124.20	125.54
May	129.73	128.02	133.24	126.49	125.12	128.32	130.16	127.77	129.08
ADULT FEMALES (c)									
1974 -									
July	86.65	82.93	80.31	79.74	77.88	78.41	79.08	87.54	83.61
August	88.82	85.80	85.95	82.35	79.30	79.55	83.46	88.86	86.35
September	90.29	87.67	89.36	84.39	83.64	83.62	86.11	90.39	88.40
October	91.92	89.42	89.53	86.01	86.04	84.25	86.33	93.07	89.94
November	92.52	89.75	89.83	86.78	87.29	86.45	86.97	93.56	90.50
December	93.32	89.97	91.95	91.47	87.65	92.47	87.62	95.09	91.62
1975 -									
January	93.58	91.84	94.36	92.21	90.79	94.18	88.06	97.01	92.85
February	95.11	92.10	96.38	92.94	91.41	94.35	88.40	98.64	93.88
March	97.02	94.79	98.05	94.05	92.42	96.00	92.31	99.04	95.91
April	97.77	95.30	98.42	94.16	93.64	96.21	92.75	99.78	96.51
May	102.59	102.83	101.89	98.42	96.95	99.86	96.20	106.92	101.94
June	105.22	104.98	102.88	99.42	98.29	101.04	98.80	108.56	104.02
July	105.47	105.17	104.79	99.55	99.67	101.28	99.16	109.09	104.48
August	105.55	105.17	104.79	99.64	103.56	101.39	99.16	109.55	104.72
September	109.27	108.87	108.76	103.14	104.83	105.27	102.63	113.26	108.32
October	109.27	108.87	108.76	103.30	104.92	105.27	102.63	113.29	108.34
November	109.27	108.87	109.02	103.31	104.94	105.27	102.69	113.30	108.37
December	109.27	109.00	110.22	103.34	104.94	105.56	102.76	113.57	108.55
1976 -									
January	109.27	109.00	110.22	103.49	104.94	105.56	102.76	113.59	108.56
February	116.21	115.97	117.38	113.15	111.89	112.33	109.38	121.23	115.72
March	116.21	115.97	117.38	113.41	111.88	112.33	109.38	121.26	115.74
April	116.42	116.25	117.58	116.35	111.98	112.44	109.78	121.71	116.16
May	119.87	119.66	121.07	119.79	115.37	115.98	113.06	125.28	119.60

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Excludes rural industry. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.

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TABLE 5. - DISTRIBUTION OF WEEKLY WAGE RATES : WAGE RATES INDEXES, MAY 1976 (a)

Weekly wage rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime) as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
ADULT MALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$)-	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 95.00	..	..	..	4.7	..	..	0.3
95.00 to 99.99	2.6	0.9	2.1	1.6	7.3	0.5	2.2
100.00 to 104.99	5.1	6.5	1.3	6.3	4.2	3.2	4.9
105.00 to 109.99	9.3	6.7	1.2	8.8	7.7	8.1	7.3
110.00 to 114.99	7.9	10.9	10.6	8.6	10.1	15.6	9.6
115.00 to 119.99	11.8	7.9	8.7	8.4	4.6	10.8	9.4
120.00 to 124.99	5.8	18.5	19.8	17.9	9.8	9.4	12.8
125.00 to 129.99	19.8	16.8	7.3	19.3	15.8	17.5	16.9
130.00 to 134.99	7.6	6.0	11.0	6.6	13.9	9.3	8.0
135.00 to 139.99	5.7	7.1	11.7	3.6	3.3	2.7	6.4
140.00 to 144.99	4.3	1.6	1.9	2.0	3.4	4.6	3.0
145.00 to 149.99	4.4	3.7	5.1	6.4	8.4	2.5	4.7
150.00 to 159.99	5.0	5.1	5.1	6.7	2.0	9.3	5.1
160.00 to 169.99	5.8	6.0	10.1	2.7	2.0	4.8	5.9
170.00 to 179.99	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.9
180.00 to 189.99	2.2	0.8	2.5	0.4	1.2	1.0	1.6
190.00 to 199.99	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6
200.00 and over	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weighted average (mean)(\$)	129.73	128.02	133.24	126.49	125.12	128.32	129.08
Median (\$) (b)	125.60	124.60	129.14	124.30	126.10	125.50	125.60
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	..	0.3	..	0.2	..	0.5	0.2
State awards, etc.	5.1	0.8	2.2	2.6	5.4	0.3	3.4
All awards, etc.	2.2	0.4	1.8	0.9	4.7	0.4	1.6
ADULT FEMALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$)-	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 95.00	..	..	..	2.1	..	..	0.1
95.00 to 99.99	1.5	1.9	2.9	3.5	10.6	1.4	2.4
100.00 to 104.99	7.0	17.3	8.5	13.8	5.7	23.2	11.4
105.00 to 109.99	9.7	3.9	2.4	4.3	15.2	10.9	6.9
110.00 to 114.99	26.3	27.6	22.0	15.3	14.0	21.4	24.7
115.00 to 119.99	6.0	5.6	8.2	6.4	18.9	7.9	6.8
120.00 to 124.99	7.7	7.6	21.7	8.4	11.6	5.4	9.4
125.00 to 129.99	25.7	10.1	4.3	32.0	19.7	25.0	18.4
130.00 to 134.99	13.3	1.2	23.5	14.1	1.0	2.3	9.5
135.00 to 139.99	2.1	12.3	5.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	5.6
140.00 to 144.99	0.5	10.9	0.3	0.9	0.2	1.1	4.0
145.00 to 149.99	0.2	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.6
150.00 and over	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	119.87	119.66	121.07	119.79	115.37	115.98	119.60
Median (\$) (b)	118.60	113.60	122.60	124.20	117.50	113.80	117.60
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	0.5	1.8	..	1.0	2.2	..	1.1
State awards, etc.	1.1	1.8	2.6	1.9	1.9	2.7	1.6
All awards, etc.	0.8	1.8	1.9	1.5	2.0	1.4	1.4

(a) This table shows the distribution of weekly wage rates included in the wage rates indexes, the weighted averages and medians of the indexes, and the percentage of index weights for wage rates equal to the various minimum wages. Comparable figures for September 1975 and February 1976 may be found in the bulletin, *Wage Rates and Earnings, February 1976* (Reference No. 6.16). (b) The median divides a distribution into two equal groups, one group having rates above the median and the other having rates below it, each group having 50 percent of the relevant weights.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Godfrey Laurie on 52 6573 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.